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Removal of Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus eos* from the Thai avifaunal list

PHILIP D. ROUND, PAUL J. LEADER and SURACHIT WAENGSOTHORN

The Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus eos* is distributed in eastern Qinghai and western Sichuan, China, where it breeds at altitudes of c.4,000–5,000 m. It is also recorded from northern Yunnan and eastern Xizang, although there is incomplete concordance among different authors in delimiting both total range and the limits of the breeding and wintering areas (Cheng 1987, Clement *et al.* 1993, MacKinnon & Phillipps 2000, Dickinson 2003).

The species was added to the list of Thai birds by McClure (1969) on the basis of a female specimen collected at Ban Mae Kah (*sic*), Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai (CTNRC 53-1963) on 25 October 1968. The collecting location is read off the Royal Thai Survey Department 1:50,000 map sheet (Sheet no. 4747 II, Series L7017), as Ban Mae Ka, 19°08′N 98°56′E, elevation c.350 m. It lies approximately 2 km north-west of Mae Taeng district town.

The specimen is stored in the Centre for Thai National Reference Collections (CTNRC), Environment and Resources Department, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Bangkok. It bears the label *Carpodacus eos gery*. (The name '*gery*' has no basis in the published literature and may possibly result from a transcription error from the field label—a misread transcription of '*C. ery*', as an abbreviation of *C. erythrinus*, perhaps?) The measurements recorded on the label are wing 75.4; tail 58.0; culmen 5.7 and gape 6.2, although during our examination the wing measured 77 mm (maximum chord) and the tail 51.5 mm (Table 1).

This apparent Pink-rumped Rosefinch record was subsequently listed in Lekagul & Cronin (1974), King *et al.* (1975), Lekagul & Round (1991) and Robson (2000, 2002). The identification of the specimen was always

potentially questionable, however, as McClure's report never stated how it was arrived at, nor how females of the closely similar Beautiful Rosefinch *C. pulcherrimus* could be excluded.

At the request of PDR, PJL carried digital images of CTNRC 53-1963 for comparison with specimens of other rosefinches in The Natural History Museum, Tring (hereafter BMNH) in order to verify its identification.

Plumage

The specimen immediately stood out from a series of 18 brown-plumaged Common Rosefinches in the CTNRC collection in being markedly smaller, whiter and more heavily streaked on the underparts. It had blacker, more precise streaks on throat and breast (compared with browner, blurred streaks in all brown-plumaged *C. erythrinus* in the CTNRC collection). It showed two prominent whitish wing-bars formed by broad tips to the median coverts and greater coverts, and the median coverts showed prominent pointed black feather centres. The rump and upper tail-coverts were unstreaked.

Female specimens of both Pink-rumped and Beautiful Rosefinches examined in BMNH both showed bold black centres to the feathers of the crown and upperparts, giving them a prominently streaked appearance. In contrast, the streaking on the upperparts of CTNRC 53-1963 was much less contrasting, browner, more blurred and less bold, and closely similar to that of most Common Rosefinches. The pointed dark centres and sharply demarcated white tips to the median coverts of CTNRC 53-1963, although different from any CTNRC specimens of Common Rosefinches, also resembled some Common Rosefinches in BMNH. It differed from both Pink-rumped and Beautiful Rosefinch specimens, the median coverts of which both showed dark grey centres and a thin off-white fringe to the outer web.

Both Pink-rumped and Beautiful Rosefinches are heavily black-streaked on the entire underparts including the undertail-coverts. While CTNRC 53-1963 shows clear black streaks on a whitish ground-colour on the throat and breast, the lower belly and undertail-coverts are unmarked whitish. CTNRC 53-1963 was more strongly streaked on the throat and breast than any Common Rosefinch examined, although some approached CTNRC 53-1963 in distinctness of the breast-streaking. In particular, CTNRC 53-1963 resembles the juvenile *C. erythrinus roseatus* illustrated in Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

Measurements and structure

An examination (PDR) and photographs (PJL) of the specimen readily indicated that it was neither Pink-rumped nor Beautiful Rosefinch based on its larger and more convex bill (the bill is smaller, with an almost straight culmen in both Pink-rumped and Beautiful Rosefinch); long primary projection; and proportionately longer wings and shorter tail (Table 1). These differences were confirmed when the photographs were compared directly with specimens of all three species at BMNH.

Table 1. Wing and tail measurements of rosefinches *Carpodacus* spp. (wing measured to nearest 0.5 mm with a wing-rule, tail to nearest 0.1 mm with dial callipers).

Taxon	n	Wing length	Tail length	Wing:tail ratio
C. erythrinus ssp.	29	78–91 ($\underline{x}$= 83.0±2.70)	50.2–59.0 ($\underline{x}$= 54.8±2.48)	1.36–1.67
C. p. pulcherrimus	8	73–83 ($\underline{x}$= 77.8±3.15)	57–66 ($\underline{x}$= 61.8±3.06)	1.17–1.33
C. eos	4	70.0–74.0	58.0–62.0	1.12–1.21
CTNRC 53-1963		77.0	51.5	1.5

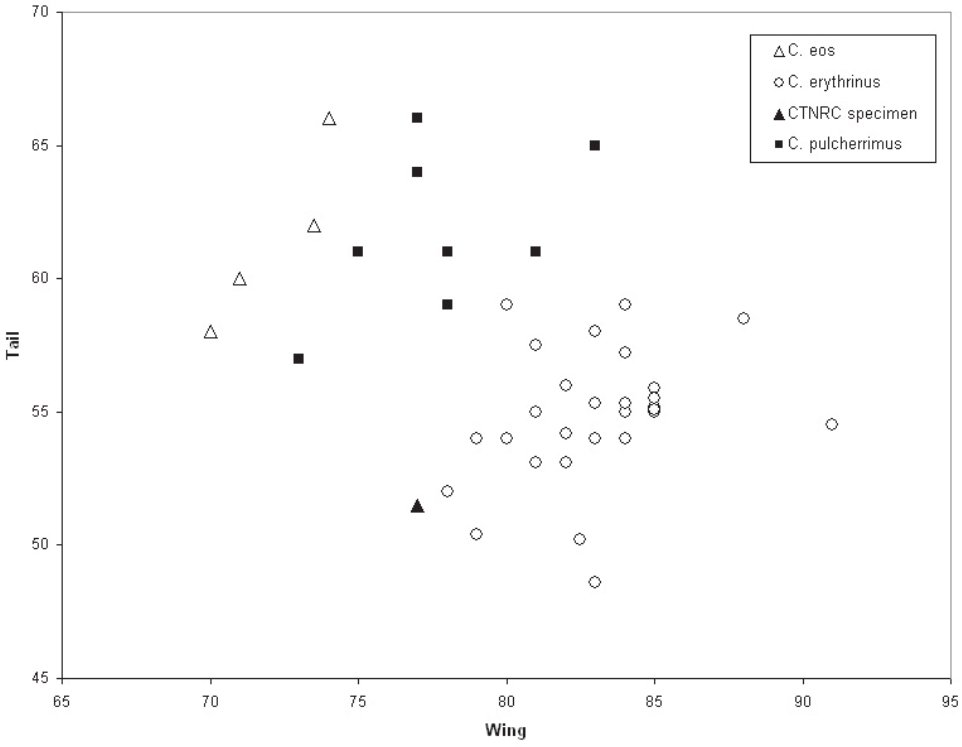

Figure 1. Scattergram of wing and tail measurements for *Carpodacus eos*, *C. p. pulcherrimus* and *C. erythrinus*, based on data in Table 1.

A scattergram of wing length against tail length (Fig. 1) indicates clearly that CTNRC 53-1963 clusters with Common Rosefinch, rather than with either Pink-rumped or Beautiful Rosefinch. The wing:tail ratio was 1.5. This compares with a ratio of 1.36–1.67 for other Common Rosefinch examined (n = 29); 1.18–1.21 for the short-winged, relatively long-tailed Pink-rumped Rosefinch (n = 4) and 1.17–1.33 (n = 8) for nominate Pink-rumped Rosefinch which is somewhat intermediate.

Conclusion

The addition of Pink-rumped Rosefinch to the Thai faunal list on the basis of specimen CTNRC 53-1963 cannot be sustained. The specimen instead appears to be a small, well-marked example of Common Rosefinch. Its size and stronger markings, distinguishing it from other Common Rosefinch in CTNRC, are doubtless the reason why the record remain unquestioned for so long; nevertheless, CTNRC 53-1963 remains a closer fit to Common Rosefinch than any other rosefinch of the region.

Speculation as to the subspecific identity of this specimen is outside the scope of this note and, in view of the great variability of Common Rosefinches, may not be possible to resolve. Both *C. e. erythrinus* and *C. e. roseatus* are listed for Thailand by Deignan (1963), and the range of variation in *C. e. roseatus*, in particular, should be examined. Additionally, females of the north-east Siberian race *C. e. grebnitskii* are said to be 'darker, greyer and browner, and more heavily streaked' (Vaurie 1959) and might be a better fit. Indeed, P. R. Sweet (*in litt.*) thought the photographs of the specimen were a good match for *C. e. grebnitskii*.

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A correction to Penhallurick & Robson (2009)

JOHN PENHALLURICK

Penhallurick & Robson (2009) published a revision of the parrotbills (Aves, Timaliidae) in which they assigned the former *Paradoxornis paradoxus* Three-toed Parrotbill and *Paradoxornis unicolor* Brown Parrotbill to the genus *Hemirhynchus* Hodgson, 1843, in the belief that the latter was a new name for *Heteromorpha* Hodgson,1843, not (i.e. preoccupied by) *Heteromorpha* Heubner, 1822 [Lepidoptera]; and thus that the type of *Hemirhynchus* was *Heteromorpha unicolor* Hodgson, 1843. This was erroneous, and the responsibility for the error lies entirely with me.

In fact in Blyth (1843: 1007) we read: '*Note to* p.933. Mr. Hodgson now suggests the name *Hemirhynchus* in lieu of *Temnoris*'. Since *Temnoris* Hodgson, 1841 is itself

a new name for *Suthora* Hodgson, 1837, the type of both *Temnoris* and *Hemirhynchus* is *Suthora nipalensis* Hodgson, 1837. Also, since Blyth did not report Hodgson's comment verbatim within quotation marks, the authorship of the name should be attributed to Blyth. Thus the citation for *Hemirhynchus* should be: *Hemirhynchus* Blyth (ex Hodgson), 1843, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 12, Pt.2, p.1007. New name for *Temnoris* Hodgson, 1841; hence the type is *Suthora nipalensis* Hodgson,1837.

Hemirhynchus should be included in the synonymy of *Suthora* Hodgson, 1837, and cannot be used as proposed. That means that the correct generic name for *Cholornis paradoxa* J. Verreaux, 1870, and *Heteromorpha unicolor* Hodgson, 1843 should be the oldest available, in this case: *Cholornis* J. Verreaux, 1870, *Nouvelles Archives de la Musée d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, 6, p. 35. Type, by original designation, *Cholornis paradoxa* J. Verreaux, 1870. Thus the names of the Three-toed and Brown Parrotbills should be, respectively:

- *Cholornis paradoxa* J. Verreaux, 1870, **Three-toed Parrotbill**.
  Cholornis paradoxa paradoxa
  Cholornis paradoxa taipaiensis (Cheng, Lo and Chao, 1973)
- *Cholornis unicolor* (Hodgson, 1843), **Brown Parrotbill**.

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